

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented): A method in a data processing system, comprising:

rendering a three-dimensional environment on a client computer associated with a first participant to form a rendered three-dimensional environment;

receiving shared data from a client computer associated with a second participant, wherein the shared data includes information to be shared between the second participant and the first participant and access control information indicating an access control level for the first participant; and

displaying a virtual representation of the shared data in the rendered three-dimensional environment on the client computer associated with the first participant based on the access control level of the first participant.

22. (Original): The method of claim 21, wherein the access control level is one of an ownership access control level, an authorship access control level, a viewership access control level, a monitorship access control level, and a blind access control level.

23. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, further comprising:

receiving a request to modify the shared data; and

determining whether the first participant has a sufficient access control level based on the access control information.

24. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 23, further comprising modifying the shared data if the first participant has a sufficient access control level.

25. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 24, further comprising:

generating a shared data update event indicating the modification; and

sending the shared data update event to at least one other participant.

26. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 23, further comprising notifying the first participant of insufficient access control if the first participant does not have a sufficient access control level.

27. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 21, further comprising:

- receiving a shared data update event indicating a modification to the shared data;
- modifying the shared data according to the shared data update event to form modified data; and

- displaying a modified representation of the modified data in the rendered three-dimensional environment based on the access control level of the first participant.

28. (Previously Presented): A method in a data processing system, comprising:

- presenting a graphical user interface on a client computer associated with a first participant;

- rendering a three-dimensional environment from the perspective of the first participant in the graphical user interface to form a rendered three-dimensional environment, the three-dimensional environment including an avatar representing a second participant;

- receiving a selection of the avatar from the first participant in the graphical user interface;

- receiving a selection, in the graphical user interface, of a file to be transferred from the client computer associated with the first participant; and

- transferring the file to a client computer associated with the second participant.

29. (Original): The method of claim 28, further comprising:

- sending a transfer request to the second participant;

- receiving an acceptance from the second participant;

- wherein the step of transferring the file to a client computer is performed in response to receiving the acceptance.

30-42. (Canceled)

43. (Previously Presented): An apparatus, comprising:

rendering means for rendering a three-dimensional environment on a client computer associated with a first participant to form a rendered three-dimensional environment;

receipt means for receiving shared data from a client computer associated with a second participant, wherein the shared data includes information to be shared between the second participant and the first participant and access control information indicating an access control level for the first participant; and

display means for displaying a virtual representation of the shared data in the rendered three-dimensional environment on the client computer associated with the first participant based on the access control level of the first participant.

44. (Original): The apparatus of claim 43, wherein the access control level is one of an ownership access control level, an authorship access control level, a viewership access control level, a monitorship access control level, and a blind access control level.

45. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 43, further comprising:

means for receiving a request to modify the shared data; and

means for determining whether the first participant has a sufficient access control level based on the access control information.

46. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 45, further comprising means for modifying the shared data if the first participant has a sufficient access control level.

47. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 46, further comprising:

means for generating a shared data update event indicating the modification; and

means for sending the shared data update event to at least one other participant.

48. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 45, further comprising means for notifying the first participant of insufficient access control if the first participant does not have a sufficient access control level.

49. (Previously Presented): The apparatus of claim 43, further comprising:

means for receiving a shared data update event indicating a modification to the shared data;

means for modifying the shared data according to the shared data update event to form modified data; and

means for displaying a modified representation of the modified data in the rendered three-dimensional environment based on the access control level of the first participant.

50. (Previously Presented): An apparatus, comprising:

presentation means for presenting a graphical user interface on a client computer associated with a first participant;

rendering means for rendering a three-dimensional environment from the perspective of the first participant in the graphical user interface to form a rendered three-dimensional environment, the three-dimensional environment including an avatar representing a second participant;

first receipt means for receiving a selection of the avatar from the first participant in the graphical user interface;

second receipt means for receiving a selection, in the graphical user interface, of a file to be transferred from the client computer associated with the first participant; and

transfer means for transferring the file to a client computer associated with the second participant.

51. (Original): The apparatus of claim 50, further comprising:

means for sending a transfer request to the second participant;

means for receiving an acceptance from the second participant;

wherein the transfer means transfers the file to the client computer in response to the means for receiving the acceptance.

52. (Canceled)

53. (Previously Presented): A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, comprising:

- instructions for rendering a three-dimensional environment on a client computer associated with a first participant to form a rendered three-dimensional environment;

- instructions for receiving shared data from a client computer associated with a second participant, wherein the shared data includes information to be shared between the second participant and the first participant and access control information indicating an access control level for the first participant; and

- instructions for displaying a virtual representation of the shared data in the rendered three-dimensional environment on the client computer associated with the first participant based on the access control level of the first participant.

54. (Previously Presented): A computer program product, in a computer readable medium, comprising:

- instructions for presenting a graphical user interface on a client computer associated with a first participant;

- instructions for rendering a three-dimensional environment from the perspective of the first participant in the graphical user interface to form a rendered three-dimensional environment, the three-dimensional environment including an avatar representing a second participant;

- instructions for receiving a selection of the avatar from the first participant in the graphical user interface;

- instructions for receiving a selection, in the graphical user interface, of a file to be transferred from the client computer associated with the first participant; and

- instructions for transferring the file to a client computer associated with the second participant.